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978-0-521-81514-7 - Information and Meaning in Evolutionary Processes

William F. Harms

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Information and Meaning in Evolutionary Processes

The most significant legacy of philosophical skepticism is the realization that our concepts, beliefs, and theories are social constructs. This belief has led to epistemological relativism, or the thesis that because there is no ultimate truth about the world, theory preferences are only a matter of opinion. Using evolutionary theory as the key to the naturalization of epistemology, William F. Harms seeks to develop the tools necessary to transform the philosophical study of knowledge into a proper scientific discipline.

This book will appeal to students and professionals in epistemology and the philosophy of science. William F. Harms is Research Associate at the Centre for Applied Ethics, University of British Columbia, and Philosophy Instructor at Seattle Central Community College.

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Here then, is a kind of pre-established harmony between the course of nature and the succession of our ideas; . . . As nature has taught us the use of our limbs, without giving us the knowledge of the muscles and nerves, by which they are actuated; so has she implanted in us an instinct, which carries forward the thought in a correspondent course to that which she has established among external objects; though we are ignorant of those powers and forces, on which this regular course and succession of objects totally depends.

David Hume, Enquiry, §V.

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